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IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT MEDICARE

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IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT MEDICARE

Medicare Will Have *Participating* Doctors And Suppliers

What does participating mean?

- Participating doctors or suppliers "accept assignment" on *all* Medicare claims. This means that they accept Medicare's approved charge as full payment on all claims.
- As in the past, when your doctor or supplier accepts assignment, you cannot be billed for more than 20% of Medicare's approved charge (regardless of the amount of the actual bill). Medicare pays the other 80%, after you meet the yearly deductible.

When will this start?

- October 1, 1984.

How do I know if my doctor or supplier participates?

- Ask your doctor or supplier.
 - Look for a Medicare participating sign in his or her office.
 - Call the company listed on page 4.
 - Look in a *Medicare Participating Physician, Supplier Directory*.
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Where can I get this Directory?

- It will be ready after December 1, 1984.
- You will be able to see it or buy it at the company listed on page 4. Write or call them to find out the cost.
- You will also be able to see it at Social Security, Railroad Retirement, or Area Agency on Aging offices, and senior citizen organizations.

Suppose my doctor or supplier doesn't participate?

- You still will have Medicare coverage.
 - You still can use any doctor or supplier you wish.
 - Medicare still pays 80% of the approved charge after you meet the yearly deductible. But you *can* be billed for *more* than 20% of Medicare's approved charge (unless your doctor or supplier agrees to accept assignment on your claim).
 - However, the law does not allow increases in the amount a non-participating doctor can charge you.
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There is a freeze on doctors' Medicare charges for 15 months... July 1, 1984 to September 30, 1985. (You will also be protected from paying any increased charges for *participating* doctors' services).

Where can I get more information?

- Write or call:

Medicare Part B
120 West Market Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Call Toll Free 1-800-622-4792

Local Indianapolis may also call (317) 261-0400

**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Health Care Financing Administration



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